GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:456
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
DOPING SCANDAL
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doping scandal has cast its shadow on the country`s most prestigious sports awards;

(b) if so, whether the list of Arjuna Awards includes the names of athletes tested positive for dope; (

(c) if so, whether the issue has also been with the Delhi High Court;

(d) if so, the stand of the Government in the matter;

(e) whether the members of the Committee who selected the names for sports awards have not given any verdict on this issue; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKIRISHNAN)

(a) & (b) : No, Sir. The issue of dope in sports has been engaging the serious attention of the Government. Among the steps taken to check drug abuse in sports, is setting up of a Dope Control Lab under the Sports Authority of India.Pending accreditation to the Medical Commission of International Olympic Committee, no definitive conclusions can be drawn on the basis of tests conducted by this laboratory.

(c) & (d): Based on a PIL, the Hon`ble Delhi High Court is seized of the matter.The Government is strongly opposed to the use of banned drugs substances by sportspersons. As per directions of the Hon`ble High Court, a Committee has been constituted by the Government to work out the modalities to deal with the problem of drug abuse by sports persons and to suggest remedial measures in this regard.

(e) & (f): The Selection Committee for selecting the Arjuna Awardees, have selected the Awardees on the basis of rules laid down by the Government for the purpose.